



# **Archaeological Monitoring at Court Lodge Farm, Sevington Lane, Willesborough, Kent June 2011**

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Plate 1.

# Archaeological Monitoring at Court Lodge Farm, Sevington Lane, Willesborough, Kent

NGR: 0298 4145

Site Code CLF/WB/10

Report for  
Quinn Estates Ltd

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## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From November 2010 to May 2011 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a proposed development at Court Lodge Farm, Sevington Lane, Willesborough, Kent.

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Quinn Estates Ltd, 77 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, Kent CT3 1UZ.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine digging of new foundations during the conversion of the farm buildings, drain runs and service trenches. The archaeological work was undertaken in three phases (Fig. 2).

Phase 1. Interior of buildings from November to December 2010.

Phase 2. Drain and service trenches from January to April 2011.

Phase 3. Storm water drainage in May 2011.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact. An earlier study, archaeological interpretation, and recording of the Historic Buildings had been undertaken by Alan Dickenson MRICS in December 2007.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: 08/01185/AS.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was high the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features.

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

Planning application 08/01185/AS for the conversion of farm buildings to create five dwellings was submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority requested that an Archaeological Monitoring and Historic Building Recording be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the conversion work.

The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

*(1.3.) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

### 3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works between the following dates: Thursday 19th November 2010 to Monday 16th May 2011.

### 4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council were to:

*(3.1.) The objectives of the archaeological monitoring are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through:*

*\* the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks and*

*\*recording of any features of heritage interest associated with the historic structures being converted*

4.2. The groundworks include the removal and lowering of concrete floors in the barns and granary, removal of tarmac and modern features and landscaping.

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

### 5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Lower Greensand comprising the Hythe Formation. Alluvium is recorded to the south of the site.

5.2. The application site is located south-east of St Mary's Church and north of Old Mill Stream (see front cover).

5.3. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

5.4. The application site lies within an area of general archaeological potential relating to previous finds including recorded prehistoric activity c.200m north of the site. A Mesolithic flint knife and Neolithic axe were recovered (**TR 04 SW 20**) some 460m west of the site. Another Neolithic polished flint axe (**TR 04 SW 14**) was found about 210m north-west of the site and features dating to the Iron Age, Early Roman, and Medieval periods (**TR 04 SW 96**) were recorded c.390m to the south-west of the site and Medieval activity was recorded c.160m to the south of the site (**TR 04 SW 95**). The development site is adjacent to St Mary's Church thought to date from the 14th-15th centuries (**TR 04 SW 289**).

## 6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Ifa: 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in several phases according to the needs of the building contractors between November 2010 to May 2011.

6.4. Excavation of the overlying ground, service, and drainage trenches was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

6.5. All excavation were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC.

## 7.0 Results

### 7.1 General

The site, formerly comprising farm buildings and yards was excavated in three phases (Fig. 2.). All trenches were excavated by machine to a depth of about 1.40m to 1.60m (Plates 3, 4, 5). The subsoil encountered across the site was a constant dark brown-yellow sandy silt impacted on by the occasional drain with no archaeological features revealed.

7.2. The interior of buildings were excavated by a bobcat, mattock and shovel. No archaeological levels or features were revealed (Plate 2 )

7.3. The final phase of investigation was for the storm drainage works, again no archaeology was revealed.

## 8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

## 9.0 Discussion

The development is in an area of high potential with the Medieval church adjacent and Prehistoric and Medieval activity nearby. The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed, either inside the Historic Buildings, or indeed in the immediate vicinity.

## 10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

## 11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Quinn Estates Ltd for commissioning the project.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA. 3rd June 2011

## References

HER data (KCC 2010)

IFA (1999 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Historic Building Recording at Courtlodge Farm, Sevington Lane, Willesborough (Kent County Council 2010).

Archaeological Interpretive Report on Court Lodge Barns, Willesborough, Ashford, TN24 0LB. (Alan Dickinson MRIC. December 2007).

## Appendix 1- Kent County Council HER Summary Form

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**Site Name:** Development site at CourtLodge Farm, Sevington Lane, WillesboroughTN 24 0LB  
**SWAT Site Code:** CLF/WB/10

**Site Address:** As above

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### Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on a development at Courtlodge Farm. The site has planning permission for the conversion of farm buildings (08/01185/AS) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of numerous site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

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**District/Unitary:** Ashford

**Parish:** Sevington

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**Period(s):**

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**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 584193 166956

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**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

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**Date of recording:** November 2010-May 2011

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**Unit undertaking recording:** Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

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**Geology:** Underlying geology is Lower Greensand

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**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2011) Archaeological Monitoring at Court Lodge Farm, Sevington lane, Willesborough

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**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**  
See above

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**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology, Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

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**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 5th July 2011

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**Plate 2.** Showing excavated strip foundations inside granary (facing west).



**Plate 3.** Close-up of service trench (facing north-east).



**Plate 4.** Close-up of foundation trenches (facing north-west).



**Plate 5.** Close-up of foundation trenches (facing west).

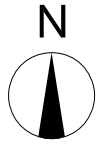
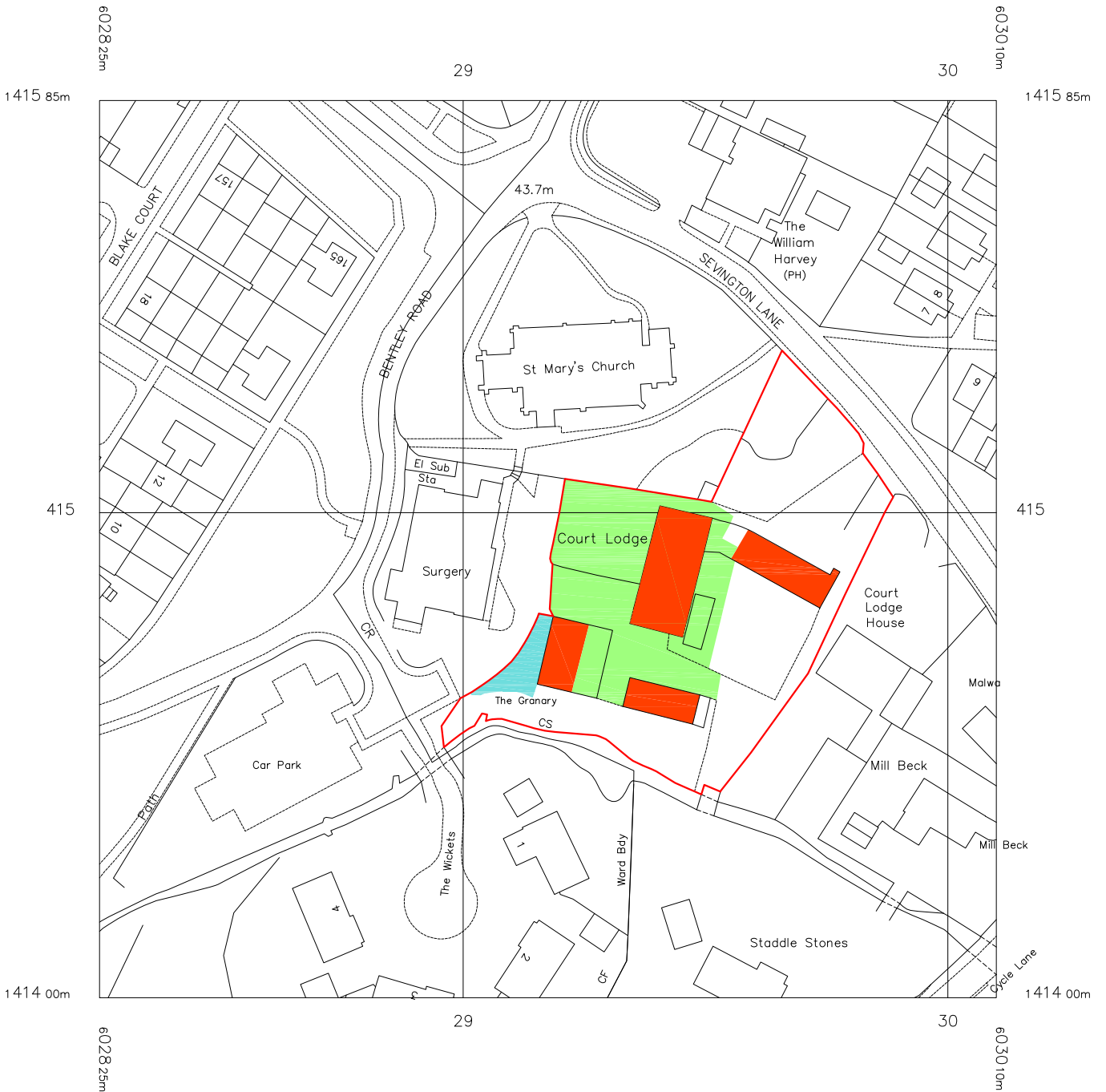
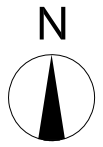





Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development

1:1250@A4

0m

100m



-  Phase 1. Interior of buildings
-  Phase 2. Drains and services
-  Phase 3. Storm water drainage

1:1250@A4



Figure 2: Watching Brief Phase plan